

**JUNE 2003 AGENDA**

SUBJECT	X	ACTION
	X	INFORMATION
		PUBLIC HEARING
California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE): Including, but not limited to, Discussion of the Report Required by AB 1609.		

Recommendation:

This item is being presented to the State Board of Education (SBE) for information this month and for action as appropriate.

Summary of Previous State Board of Education Discussion and Action

Assembly Bill (AB) 1609 (Chapter 716, Statutes of 2001, Assemblyman Calderon) required the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI), with the approval of the SBE, to contract for an independent study regarding the requirement of passage of the CAHSEE as a condition of receiving a diploma of graduation and a condition of graduation from high school. A final report based on the study was delivered to the Governor, the chairs of the education policy committees in the California Legislature, the SBE, and the SSPI on May 1, 2003.

The study includes an examination of whether the test development process and the implementation of standards-based instruction meet the required standards for a test of this nature.

In March 2002, the SBE received a report on the status of the study required by AB 1609. The contract was signed in late September 2002. The contract was awarded to the Human Resources Research Organization (HumRRO). During November 2002, the draft surveys were reviewed by the contractors' outside consultant panel, California Department of Education (CDE) staff, and SBE testing liaisons and staff. HumRRO and CDE have been providing status briefings to SBE on the report since November.

HumRRO presented the AB1609 report to the SBE at its May 2003 meeting. The SBE members asked CDE for additional information, which will be provided in the supplemental mailing. This will include estimated math and English-language arts pass rates from the March 2003 administration of the CAHSEE and the effects of compensatory models on these pass rates for all students tested and for subgroups.

Summary of Key Issue(s)

AB 1609 was passed to require the SSPI to contract for an independent study to determine the state's readiness to require the Class of 2004 to pass the high school exit examination as a condition of receiving a diploma of graduation from high school. This bill also authorized the SBE to delay the date for requiring students to pass the high school exit examination as a condition of receiving a diploma based on the extent to which the SBE determines that the test development process or the implementation of standards-based instruction meets the required

Summary of Key Issue(s)

standards for a test of this nature. The SBE will need to make its decision prior to August 1, 2003.

Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate)

None.

Attachment(s)

Additional information will be provided in the supplemental mailing.